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SOME

PARTICULARS

OF THE

ROYAL INDISPOSITION

OF

1788——1789,

AND

OF ITS EFFECTS

UPON

ILLUSTRIOUS PERSONAGES

AND

OPPOSITE PARTIES

INTERESTED BY IT.

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THE severe illness of our august and beloved Sovereign, which is a source of sorrow and anxiety to all, and of absolute despondency to some, has induced the editor of the following sheets to submit them to the public. It is presumed that a knowledge of the affecting circumstances which, on a former occasion, terminated in complete recovery of health, and long enjoyment of mental powers, may be calculated to sooth anguish and excite hope in the present instance. And if the editor could be assured that only one truly loyal and patriotic mind received support or consolation from this her zealous but humble endeavour to administer it, she should deem her labour amply compensated.

What she thus offers to the public is extracted from a long-continued journal of a departed friend, whose peculiar situation, for a series of years, afforded her ample means of information, whilst it left her wholly unconnected with contending parties. What is here presented has been transcribed, almost verbatim, from that journal. Some details of a political nature, of the propriety of which the editor professes herself no judge, she would gladly have omitted... But she found them so closely interwoven with the main subject, that, unskilled as she is in the art of preparing for the press, she despaired of effecting a separation without impairing the sense of the author, or diminishing the marks of authenticity which now pervade every page, and which she considers as the chief recommendation of the performance.

March, 1804.

ROYAL INDISPOSITION.

On Monday the 3d of November, 1788, the King's disorder excited great alarm, and two other physicians were summoned to Windsor, to the assistance of Sir George Baker, who, till then, had attended alone. On Tuesday the bad symptoms gathered strength;—on Wednesday and Thursday apprehensions increased;—and on Friday His Majesty was thought in imminent danger. On Saturday Dr. Warren, at the instance of the Prince of Wales, saw the royal patient for the first time. This gentleman, either possessed of more acute discernment, or acting under less restraint than his brethren, hesitated not to communicate to the Queen, that the disorder under which the King laboured was an absolute mania, distinct from and wholly unconnected with fever.

On Sunday His Majesty was thought to be actually expiring. After long and violent efforts, nature seemed exhausted, and he remained two hours senseless and motionless, with a pulsation hardly perceptible. Recovering by degrees from this torpor, he became capable of taking some refreshment.

The distress of the Queen and the Princesses was beyond description. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of York were deeply affected. The former wept abundantly when the true nature of the malady was communicated to him. Both the Princes remained at Windsor, and were unremitting in their endeavours to support the Queen, and to console the Princesses.

November 12th. The account sent to St. James's, that the King had slept from six to nine o'clock the preceding night, but that there was no abatement of his complaint, afforded no consolation to those who were interested for his essential welfare. Orders were sent to the Secretary of State's office, that it should be

notified to foreign courts, that no apprehensions were entertained of immediate danger to the King's life.

13th. At the usual hour, half past eleven, advice was received at St. James's, that the King remained as before. Two hours after, a letter was received by the lord in waiting, which brought intelligence, that the King had shown tokens of recollection, which suggested some hopes, although His Majesty immediately relapsed into his former incoherences.

A palsy upon the brain was said to be the cause of a deplorable malady, which no medical skill could reach; and an opinion universally prevailed, that it would be necessary immediately to form a Regency. Opposition asserted that the Prince's majority entitled him to undivided power. But Mr. P—'s partisans reprobated the idea, and strenuously maintained the Queen's superior pretensions.

14th. Circular letters were sent to members of parliament, stating, that the present unhappy situation of the King making it impro-

bable that His Majesty's commands could be received for the further prorogation of Parliament, it must meet on the 20th instant, when attendance was earnestly solicited.

15th. It had been hoped that lucid intervals and better prospects might have enabled the King to prorogue Parliament, and would have justified the measure. Early in the morning of this day the Chancellor, actuated by this hope, went to Windsor. But the sad situation in which he found the King suggested only the necessity of hastening the distribution of notices, which had been delayed to the latest moment.

Sunday the 16th expectation was kept upon the rack at St. James's till half past two o'clock. Bad presages, drawn from the delay, were confirmed by the event. "Notwithstanding six hours' sleep, the King is not better to-day," was the affecting report. It appeared that the messenger had been detained beyond the usual hour, in the hope that some favourable symptom might have authorised a different one.

Opposition now forcibly felt the misfortune of Mr. F—'s absence. His powerful and extensive talents qualifying him alike to guide in council and to lead in debate, his return was anxiously desired. Increasing bad symptoms in His Majesty augmented their impatience for accounts from the messengers who had, upon the first idea of his danger, been dispatched to the Continent in quest of Mr. Fox. His acknowledged honour, as well as his transcendent abilities, made every member of the party solicitous that he should have frequent access to, and obtain the confidence of, the Prince; to whom they now looked up, as to the source of power and honours.

Those who enjoyed the sweets of subsisting arrangements, and trembled at the thoughts of change, were inclined sanguinely to hope what they anxiously wished. They firmly believed that the derangement of the King's intellects would be but temporary, and that repose and method would not fail to effect his restoration. But amongst those over whose

hopes and fears interest had no sway, few were found who did not draw the most afflicting conclusions from all the circumstances they were acquainted with. That the approach of the terrible malady had been gradual and regular—that sound sleep, good appetite, and total absence of fever, had produced no diminution of it—appeared to them a formidable basis for the worst apprehensions.

The number of those who watched over His Majesty was now increased. A rash attempt created the necessity. With the extraordinary cunning that is often found to accompany intellectual maladies, His Majesty one night, feigning to sleep, even to snore, threw the apothecary, who alone watched by him, off his guard, and hastened to a window of his apartment with a precipitancy which, whilst it bespoke the worst of purposes, happily prevented its perpetration by the alarm it spread.

The Queen and the royal children now no longer saw His Majesty. Interviews, which produced no effect upon *him*, but which exqui-

sitely tortured *their* feelings, were judged best discontinued.

Nov. 20th. Parliament met this day, in consequence of the last prorogation. Both assemblies seemed deeply impressed with a sense of the unhappy situation of the revered monarch whom they had been accustomed to meet on similar occasions. The fullest attendance ever recollected, when no call had preceded, evinced the universal solicitude and anxiety. Four hundred and fifty members were present in the House of Commons. Mr. P— in that, and the Chancellor in the Upper House, declared the necessity of adjournment, and the expediency of obtaining, by the usual means, the fullest possible attendance; that such measures as the exigency of the times should be found to require, might receive due sanction. A call of the House, and summonses to the Lords, were accordingly ordered; and both Houses were adjourned to the 4th of December.

It was hoped that frequent interviews, which the Prince was said to have with Mr. P— at

Windsor might soften the dislike his Royal Highness made no secret of entertaining for that minister. The influence of the Queen, who was known to esteem him, seconding the frame of mind which the calamitous situation of his royal father was likely to produce, might, it was hoped, lessen the acrimony of the Prince's feelings towards Mr. P— and some of his adherents. It was also hoped, by the candid and moderate, that a calamity like the present might have had the effect of reconciling parties; and that attention to the public good, absorbing selfish considerations, might have produced union, and prevented contentions that must aggravate the material difficulties which embarrassed Government. But *these*, little susceptible themselves of the impulses of avarice and ambition, were incompetent judges of their influence upon minds in which they had long predominated. It was, however, some satisfaction to persons of this description to know, that the Prince had sent for the Chancellor, and, receiving him with marks of

high consideration, had said to him, "I have desired your Lordship's attendance not only as my *father's* friend, but as my *own* friend; and I beseech you, my Lord, to give me your counsel on this unhappy occasion. I have the utmost confidence in your judgment, and shall have the utmost satisfaction in acting by it."

The habitual piety observable in the King's life, did not forsake him in his calamitous situation. On Sunday the 16th His Majesty desired to have prayers read; and on Mr. M—'s approach, seeing him confused, embarrassed—perhaps from emotions of sensibility—he rose from his seat, and, presenting a book of prayers, pointed to several which he had marked, and desired these might be read. His Majesty accompanied the chaplain with much recollection; but, soon after, his wanderings returned, and great disturbance of mind ensued. In the middle of the night His Majesty rose suddenly from his bed, and rushed into the anti-chamber. The equerry in waiting there earnestly besought him to return; which the King ab-

solutely refused to do, saying, "What right have you to command me? I know who you are. You are my servant." Colonel G., with a happy presence of mind, replied, "Sir, it is not so now. I am now your master—and you must, and shall return." The King replied not; but, turning away, shed tears, and complied.

In the King's calmer moments his principal occupation was writing; and the subject, generally, dispatches to foreign courts. These, founded upon imaginary causes, were said to be written with great consistency and uncommon eloquence. At some periods—all gracious, condescending, and munificent, His Majesty lavished honours upon all who approached him; elevating to the highest dignities, pages, gentlemen of the bed-chamber, or any occasional attendant.

To these gentler workings of a disordered mind, often succeeded sad transports of vehemence and agitation, which were expressed in tones so ungoverned as sometimes to reach

beyond the walls of the royal apartment. Exhausted nature would then feel a pause; during which, it was not uncommon for His Majesty to express a consciousness of his unhappy state, and a despair of ever being relieved from it.

The sleep which succeeded these various agitations of mind and person, was often sound and long; but never did the Monarch awake from them in a *composed* state of mind. The refreshment of the body seemed only to add strength to the mental malady. From this circumstance the most melancholy inferences were drawn; and, in confirmation of them, it was said that a brother of the K—'s mother had terminated his existence under a total privation of the first of blessings. Music, which had formerly been found peculiarly soothing to the royal mind, now served only to excite impatience. In the last fortnight His Majesty had resisted all solicitations to be shaved. His malady, and his exertions, had so emaciated him, that it was judged expedient to remove

every mirror, lest the reflection of his own figure should affect him too sensibly.

The accounts transmitted to St. James's on the 21st, 22d, and 23d, varied little. Quiet, or disturbed sleep, made the only difference; and the continuance of fever was always announced. The account of the 24th said, His Majesty had had a restless night, and was not better.

On the 24th, at seven o'clock in the morning, arrived the so long and ardently desired Mr. F—. The courier who had been dispatched from hence on the 4th had been detained at Dover two days by contrary winds. He proceeded from Calais with such expedition, that he reached Turin on the seventh day from his landing upon the Continent. *There* he had the mortification to learn that Mr. F— was at Bologna.

Mr. F— had suffered much from an attack of the rheumatism, and had been confined three days to his room when the courier arrived. He had just before received a severe shock from

accidental intelligence that Lord Holland was no more. When a messenger from England was announced, "Alas!" exclaimed Mr. F—, "here comes the dreadful confirmation!" A friend who was with him, hastened to the messenger, and returned with his dispatches, proclaiming, "Lord Holland is well—but the King is dying!" The transition occasioned in Mr. F—'s mind, operated miracles upon his constitution; or rather, the friend and the patriot were found to supersede the man. All sense of personal suffering—all considerations of personal safety, fled before the calls of friendship and the claims of his country. He set out immediately, in a carriage constructed much like an English two-wheeled chaise, and not less exposed to the inclemency of the weather. At Turin he was obliged to change this for a carriage even more ineligible. But he passed the Alps, and reached Lyons in improved vigour. *There* the report of the King's actual demise prevailed. At Paris the deplorable truth was fully known. After a short stay of two hours,

Mr. F— proceeded for London, which he reached on the eleventh day of his departure from Bologna. He immediately took the refreshment of a warm bath—was blooded—and retired to bed for some hours. In the evening he attended the nightly consultation at Burlington House, with every appearance of perfect health, and in the full enjoyment of all his high capacities.

Nov. 27th. An observable change appeared in the physicians' note of this day. "His Majesty has had sufficient sleep, but does not appear to be relieved by it." This seemed a prelude to a public avowal of the deplorable malady; and inspired a belief, that those who were most unwilling to admit the improbability of recovery, had now a melancholy conviction forced upon them of the permanency of the disorder.

In the violent paroxysms of His Majesty's disorder he continually raved about the Queen; sometimes loading her with reproaches, and uttering threats against her; at others, desiring

her presence, with expressions of passionate regard.

One day, tired of vainly soliciting to see the Queen, His Majesty desired to have her picture. He addressed it with great calmness and recollection in these words: "We have been married twenty-eight years, and never have we been separated a *day* till *now*; and *now* you abandon me in my misfortunes." It being deemed improper to hazard the Queen's having an interview with His Majesty, a lady whom he used particularly to esteem and value, begged to be permitted to see him, in the hope of exciting some salutary feeling in the royal mind..... The event did not answer the benevolent intention; but too well confirmed the expediency of the Queen's remaining at a distance.

Another day His Majesty desired to have 400l. from his privy purse. He divided it into different sums, wrapping them up in separate papers, upon which he wrote the names of persons to whom he had been accustomed to make monthly payments, with perfect accu-

racy and precision. His Majesty then wrote down the different sums, with the names annexed, cast up the whole, as he formerly used to do, and ordered the money to be paid immediately,—it being then due.

After this instance of perfect recollection, His Majesty began to deplore the unhappy situation of London; which, he said, had been under water a fortnight. His attendants, who never directly contradicted any assertion, assured His Majesty that they had received no account of such an event, though they had daily communication with persons from town. His Majesty very calmly replied, that they either sought to deceive him, or were themselves not well informed. He then proceeded to explain, with the same composure, that the water was making gradual advances; and that in one week more it would reach the Queen's house. His Majesty expressed great unwillingness that a valuable manuscript, the precise situation of which he described, should suffer; and declared an intention of going, on

the ensuing Monday, to rescue it from the approaching evil. This mixture of distraction and reason giving way to absolute alienation, His Majesty expressed his sorrow that Lord T—— was not present—he having prepared every thing for creating him a Duke.

The temper of the King's mind was, at this period, free from violence. He did not now exhibit the terrible transports that were frequent during the first fortnight of confinement.

Nov. 27th. The C——, Mr. P—, Lord Stafford, and the other members of the cabinet council, waited upon the Prince of Wales at Windsor, and proceeded to examine the King's physicians, and also Dr. Addington; who had visited His Majesty three or four times previous to this inquiry. The four attending physicians having declared His Majesty's malady to be of a species that had not been the subject of their researches, this gentleman, at Mr. P—'s particular desire, had been called in. It was known that thirty years had elapsed

since Dr. Addington* had abandoned the practice of that branch of the medical art now required;—and it was more than ten years since he had wholly withdrawn from business.

The result of this examination was a determination to issue summonses to every member in the list of privy counsellors, to attend a general meeting on the 3d of December; when a further inquiry, respecting medical opinions, was intended to be made. It was further resolved, that the King should be removed, as soon as possible, from Windsor to Kew. The considerable diminution of the inconvenient distance from the capital, and the means of taking exercise without being exposed to observation, were great and solid reasons for the change of situation.

Summonses were also issued to the members

* A memorable transaction in the lifetime of the late Lord Chatham acquired Dr. A. the appellation of the political doctor. His coming forward at this juncture revived the remembrance of it.—E.

of the House of Commons to meet at the Cockpit in the evening of the 3d of December; and it was expected that some measures would speedily be adopted, for supplying the essential chasm which the King's deplorable malady had occasioned in the state.

Consultations were every day held by Ministry; and a daily assembly of Opposition members took place at Burlington House. The strength of parliamentary interest was anxiously calculated at both. The wish of Opposition was, that the Prince might be sole Regent—and that he might be invested with every kingly power and function—his royal father being, by them, considered as virtually defunct.

The partisans of Mr. P— advanced, that in the present case, when the disorder probably was but temporary, arrangements ought to be the same as would have taken place had His Majesty made an excursion, for a limited time, to his foreign dominions. They contended, that, as in that case, he certainly

would have given the Queen supreme power, so, in the present situation, it ought to be vested in *her*.

The Queen, wholly occupied at this time by solicitude for the health and restoration of her august consort, resisted every attempt to engage her in political contests. She positively declared, that the only stipulation she wished to make, was, for permission to watch over His Majesty's safety. The Prince's attention to his royal mother and sisters was unremitting; and reciprocal regard, and mutual confidence, furnished the best consolation to each, under the common calamity.

The King expressed great unwillingness to remove from Windsor. But on Saturday, the 29th of November, the point was happily accomplished. The Queen wrote a letter to His Majesty, entreating him to go to Kew; and some of his attendants gave an unauthorized assurance, that he would there be allowed to see the Queen. It was not, however, till His Majesty had been shown the carriages which

conveyed the Queen and the Princesses from Windsor, that he consented to leave it. His impatience then became extreme—and his agitation so great, that it was some time doubtful whether the wished removal would be practicable. Something like tranquillity succeeding, His Majesty was placed in the carriage—accompanied in it by General H——, and Colonels Goldsworthy and G——. The motion seemed to compose his mind, and the journey was happily performed.

The sufferings of the Queen and the Princesses, on this trying occasion, cannot be described. Uncertain whether the King would follow—yet satisfied that their departure was the only possible means of inducing His Majesty to remove, they left Windsor, doubtful whether they were not performing an unavailing journey—and their minds tortured with solicitude for what might occur during a cruel interval. If any thing could add to feelings thus acute, it must have been the profound, respectful, silent woe manifested by

every individual of an immense crowd assembled to behold the sad procession.

Either disappointment of the expectation His Majesty had entertained of seeing the Queen on his arrival at Kew, or irritation from exercise long discontinued, produced hurtful effects upon the royal mind—and the succeeding night was passed in a deplorable manner.

The following day, the physicians contented themselves with announcing the removal of the King, and the precise hour of it; and the declarations of several subsequent days stated His Majesty's health to be the same as it then was.

Decem. 1st. Public affairs now wore a most unsettled appearance. Mr. P—— and the Ch—— had long entertained jealousies and discontents against each other; and the appointment of Sir Richard Arden to be Master of the Rolls, in spite of declared and violent opposition from Lord T——, had provoked the natural irascibility of his temper to a degree,

that had, in the preceding summer, required all the King's exertions to control. He now evinced much inclination to withdraw from the present administration. And, perhaps, only the difficulty of obtaining from Opposition all he wished to have, deterred him from declaring for them. Suspicious of his motives, and doubtful of the solidity of his attachment to any party, they declined sacrificing to him, in their meditated arrangements, Lord L———, who claimed the Chancellorship; and whose abilities, and steady adherence to Opposition, had entitled him to distinction from them. But the magnitude of Lord T——'s powers was sufficiently understood to make his acquisition desired. The presidency of the council, an augmentation of pension, an increase of honours—these were allurements held out to, and, it was believed, attended to by, the veteran politician.

Mr. P—, apprised of these circumstances, and doubtful of being able to effect much if deprived of this powerful support, conceived

the idea of immediate resignation. But in the multitude who surrounded the Minister, and were deeply interested in his continuance—some, from persuasion of his importance to the state;—many, from consideration of his reputation;—and more, probably, from motives originating in self;—were found advocates for his perseverance, who over-ruled the hasty impulse. An opposite resolution was then formed. It was determined that Mr. P— should retain, to the last possible moment, the powers with which he stood invested.

Various causes combined, at this juncture, to clog and embarrass the measures of Opposition *. Certain pretensions, strenuously insisted upon, were adopted by some of its most zealous members, but were rejected by the more dispassionate of the party. Hence arose some sensations unfriendly to the unanimity which alone could give efficacy to their general consultations. Difficulty in arranging

* The editor has deemed it expedient to omit a part of this passage.

their respective claims increased these. And it was observed that the Duke of P. showed a languor in his proceedings, which the urgency of those who built all their hopes upon the political weight of his Grace's character vainly strove to rouse him from. A recollection of past causes of dissatisfaction with the P——'s conduct towards himself, was said principally to occasion this. All these circumstances conspiring, enervated the powers of the party;—and consultations without conclusions, and projects which jarring interests made impracticable, consumed that time which might have been employed in useful disquisitions.

December 3d. The examination of the physicians before the Privy Council, who on this important occasion assembled to the extraordinary number of , ascertaining the nature of the King's malady, and his incapacity to exercise his royal functions, a Regency was deemed necessary to supply the deficiency. The result was communicated to the

Prince; who waited upon the Queen to apprise her of it, and to declare his intention to assert those pretensions which his situation and age gave him. His Royal Highness added, that if, as he expected, he should be declared sole Regent, he should hope Her Majesty would take upon herself the sole and absolute care of the King. Her Majesty at this time entertained no other wish—and unequivocally professed her determination to take no part in politics.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to the Duke of P——, and, embracing him most cordially, "begged that every unpleasant cir-"cumstance that had passed between them "might be burried in oblivion—assuring His "Grace, that he had the highest regard for "him—and that he should be happy to receive "his assistance, and to depend upon his wis-"dom, in this moment of calamity."

The genuine urbanity of the duke's mind rendered this concession ample atonement. His grace promised to devote himself to the

Prince's service;—and prepared to combat the difficulties of arrangements, with a zeal inspired rather by the testimony of the Prince's confidence, and the desire to serve dependent friends, than by any immediate wish for power to himself. *That* he had exercised, heretofore, long enough to reach the alloy that lurks under its inchanting surface; and the now opulent state of his fortunes made emoluments of little account, in his scheme of happiness.

On the 4th of December Parliament met. Mr. P— at the meeting at the Cockpit, on the preceding evening, had, after expatiating on the melancholy state of the King's health, thrown out some general observations upon the measures it might be expedient to pursue. He suggested the necessity of appointing a Regency; and insinuated, that there might be great wisdom in naming an auxiliary council.

The account laid before Parliament of the examination of the physicians, by the Privy

Council, gave rise to very different opinions in the contending parties.

A member expressing an idea that the dignity of the House had not been sufficiently considered in the mode by which the physicians' opinions were brought before it, Mr. P— vindicated the method; as being (besides its having a certain delicacy to recommend it) the only one through which the Commons could receive it upon oath.

The report of the examination by no means gave general satisfaction. Dr. Addington's loquacious account, and unqualified declaration, that, "of the *many* upon whom he had "pronounced the sentence of curable, or the "contrary, he had, *in no one instance*, been "found fallible," gave an impression of self-importance, and zeal to establish certain opinions, which deprived his testimony of pretensions to over-ruling authority.

When Sir L— P——'s declaration was read, that there was the greater probability of His Majesty's cure, as the disorder was not here-

ditary,—a member, whose sensibility and delicacy did not preponderate, drew his hand across his throat, in allusion to a melancholy catastrophe, which was said to have terminated the existence of an uncle of the King: and the stress laid upon a proposition not established, lessened the weight of this gentleman's testimony in the general estimation.

The incapacity of His Majesty to exercise his royal functions being admitted by Mr. P—, he proposed an adjournment till Monday the 8th, that search might be made for precedents applicable to the present unhappy situation.

Opposition agreed to the motion—but rejected the reason;—alledging, that it was absurd to search for *that*, which it was well known did not exist.

Some members thought the physicians' accounts not sufficiently clear, and circumstantial;—some conceived that the dignity of the House had not been properly attended to,—and were displeased at receiving through the me-

dium of the Privy Council, that information which they might have required at their own bar.

The House adjourned, with vague, indigested *notions* of discontent and dissatisfaction,—leaving the Minister at liberty to form plans for delay, which might protract the dreaded moment of resignation,—and allowing Opposition leisure to surmount the difficulties of making arrangements, which it was now believed a few days would render necessary.

December 7th. When the end desired has not been obtained, it is common to condemn the means that have been employed. The King's malady not having abated during the restraints imposed at Windsor, it was judged that the indulgence of a degree of liberty might have produced salutary effects. On His Majesty's removal to Kew, his range was enlarged; and, instead of several persons watching over him, a single page only remained to receive his commands. Two equerries

only waited in the anti-chamber;—and the assistance which contingencies might make necessary was placed out of sight.

After the second day of His Majesty's removal, longer intervals, and less violent paroxysms, suggested the flattering hope, that change of system had produced beneficial effects. But on the Thursday the worst symptoms re-appeared. The night was restless—and the two succeeding days destroyed the dawning hope.

Dr. W——, who had been sent for from Lincolnshire, first saw His Majesty on Friday the 5th. He scrupled not to blame the delay in calling in practitioners peculiarly devoted to the study of His Majesty's complaint, and he highly condemned the degree of liberty allowed the royal patient. He encouraged the Queen to think that a cure was not improbable;—and he represented, that it might the rather be expected, as the means peculiarly adapted to the disorder still remained untried. He begged, if his attendance should

be commanded, that he might be permitted to act without control. He said that there was but *one method*, in that complaint, by which the lowest and the highest person could be treated with effect;—and that his reputation was too much concerned in the event, for him to attempt any thing, if he might not be invested with unlimited powers.

It may be conceived with what anguish Her Majesty yielded to this requisition. But her conviction of its propriety fortified the magnanimity that prefers the performance of duties to the indulgence of feelings. It was known to her, that the first principle of Dr. W——'s practice is, to make himself formidable—to inspire awe. In these terrible maladies, those who superintend the unhappy patients must so subjugate their will, that no idea of resistance to their commands can have place in their minds. It was but too obvious, that the long and habitual exercise of high command must increase the difficulty of accomplishing this, in the present instance;—

and an apprehension of the necessity of peculiar rigour gave all possible aggravation to the Queen's distress.

A council was held at Mr. P—'s on Sunday the 7th at noon. Upon its rising, a messenger was dispatched to Kew with a letter to the Queen. At nine o'clock in the evening of the same day the Prince of Wales received a letter from Her Majesty, in which were strongly expressed sentiments of that prudence, good sense, and maternal and conjugal affection, by which Her Majesty's conduct had ever been distinguished. Her Majesty informed the Prince that she had been applied to, and urged, to take a share in the Regency, as the only means of securing, to herself, a certainty of preserving the care of the King's person. But Her Majesty added, "she authorized his Royal Highness to declare, that she would on no account take any share in the political affairs of this kingdom—it being her determination to remain at Kew, or wherever else His Majesty might be; and to devote herself wholly to him, as his friend and companion."

His Royal Highness's answer, which was immediately returned, contained the most dutiful and tender professions. It concluded with the assurance that, "if Her Majesty's taking any share in the government of this country could give her any additional care or authority over his royal father's person, he should be the first to propose its being conferred; but, Her Majesty being the only person upon whom such a trust ought to devolve, she might assure herself that she should be considered as His Majesty's sole guardian so long as the unhappy malady should continue."

Parliament met on the 8th, according to adjournment; and, after a short debate, agreed to refer the examination of the physicians to a committee of forty members, who were to be selected from both sides of the House. Mr. F—'s party, actuated by the desire of obtaining certainty,—and Mr. P—'s adherents, animated by the expectation of exciting hope,—were equally desirous of referring to the means by which they alike expected to effect their purposes. In the mean time every endeavour was used, on

each side, to predispose the minds of men to deduce such inferences from the expected evidence as should favour their respective views.

On the one hand it was said that Dr. W—s had declared to particular friends, that the continuance of the King's malady was chiefly owing to improper treatment. And it was asserted, that he had confidently assured the Queen, that relief would follow the change of system. Reports were circulated from St. James's that the King had been tolerably composed on the 7th; and that he had been permitted to shave himself, and to use a knife and fork. On the other side, unfavourable symptoms were related—and doubts entertained, that the flattering reports were circulated to answer particular purposes.

On the 10th instant the House met to receive the report of the committee for the examination of the physicians. His Majesty's incapacity for business, the first subject of inquiry, was acknowledged by all. To the next, respecting the probability of cure, the

reply was, that there were hopes, founded upon general principles; a majority of those afflicted with the same disorder having recovered. His Majesty had, it was owned, at present, shown no signs of convalescence; but it was added, that his habit of body, and his general health, having improved, there was increased cause to hope his malady might subside.

To the question, whether it was possible to name any time at which the recovery could be better judged of? the reply was, that that was utterly impossible; and that there were no grounds to form a conjecture what might be the duration of the malady.

Sir G. B—r said, the attack of the disorder had been sudden. He first discovered it on Wednesday the 22d of October last. His Majesty had been indisposed for some time before, but on that day was perfectly free from fever. Being asked "whether, the attack being sudden, the recovery might not be the same?" he replied in the negative.

Dr. W——s said, he had devoted himself to the study of this disorder twenty-eight years; and had, annually, superintended about thirty patients. In the present case, he professed himself disposed to hope, from having observed, that the irritation which always accompanies the disorder, and which must totally disappear before a cure can be effected, had begun to subside a few hours after a medicine calculated for the purpose had been administered. He referred to weight of business—severe abstinence—and too little rest—as the causes of this calamity. These combined, he had often known to produce the effect. He said, the medicines he had given were intended to counteract the consequences of such a mode of life; and their operation, the irritation having begun to subside within six hours after they had been taken, confirmed him in the opinion that that had been the cause. Patients so afflicted, he had sometimes found to recover in six weeks—sometimes, in not less

than a year and a half;—upon an average, in about five or six months.

Mr. P— then addressed the House in a speech of some length; in which (after deploring the melancholy state of the King's health, which they had yet the consolation, he said, from the testimony of the physicians, to hope would be restored) he represented, that uncertainty of the length of the interval made it necessary to take some intermediate steps for the public safety; and that they might act with the greatest possible circumspection, he recommended that the wisdom of past ages should be recurred to. For this purpose he moved, that inquiry should be made, by a committee, into the proceedings in cases of the personal exercise of the royal authority being interrupted.

Mr. F— replied, that he did not mean to oppose the present motion—but he could not give it his approbation. He would maintain, that no precedent could be found, in any degree applicable to the present occasion. There

was now a person in this realm, standing in a situation wholly differing from any instance that could be adduced—an Heir Apparent, of full age,—of full capacity,—in every respect qualified for the situation in which he was destined to act.

Great warmth being excited in the course of the debate, violent party animosity broke forth. Mr. P— declared that it was little less than treason against the State to maintain, that on the present occasion *a right of sovereignty* devolved on any one person; and he proceeded to protest, that, till the sanction of Parliament was obtained, the Prince of Wales had no more right to exercise the powers of Government than any other person in these realms.

Much vehemence, and some ingenuity, were displayed during this debate. Mr. Burke took occasion to style Mr. P— one of the Prince of Wales's competitors; and, on being called to order, alleged there could be no impropriety

in the expression, since, the Prince being allowed no other right than any other individual, the right honourable gentleman alluded to must be included in the description.

The House at length agreed to name a committee to search for precedents; and, naming twenty-one members for the purpose, adjourned till Friday the 12th. Mr. P— intimated, that probably a great question would be agitated on Monday or Tuesday next.

On the 12th Lord Camden, and afterwards the Chancellor, held much the same arguments in the Lords' House, that Mr. P— had used in the lower. They strenuously insisted upon the omnipotence of Parliament, to appoint to the care of the realm, in the case of interruption in the ability of the Sovereign. Lord L—— combated their arguments with great ability. But, as this was rather a previous conversation than an actual discussion of the great question, an early adjournment took place, after a resolution had passed to meet the next day, for the purpose

of searching for precedents in circumstances similar to the present.

If the objects in question had been really, and simply, the dignity of the two parts of the Legislature, and the rights of the Heir Apparent, means might easily have been found to ascertain and reconcile them. . . . . .

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On the 13th, the report being presented by the chairman of the committee, Mr. P— moved that it should be printed; which being agreed to, he proposed that Tuesday following should be the day for taking into consideration the present state of the nation.

Mr. F— then solicited the attention of the House. He complained that his declaration on a former day had been misrepresented. He wished to do away the unjust construction, that he had maintained that the Prince could assume sovereign power without the sanction of Parliament. Mr. P— in reply asserted, that such a proposition had been

held out;—and he declared, as such an opinion had gone abroad, no business could properly be entered upon, till the question of right had undergone a parliamentary discussion.

Mr. F— contended, that a disquisition of this nature could produce no effect but to protract the arrangement of most important particulars. And he further observed, that as he had advanced whatever he said, merely in his capacity of a member of parliament, and not from any authority,—so, as the opinion of an individual, it could by no means be necessary to give it a solemn investigation.

Mr. P—, whose object was less the determination of this question than the protraction of the moment of political revolution, yielded not to the argument. Being strongly pressed for information, whether he meant to make any proposal respecting arrangements; and being told, that if he, the proper person, did not do it, it must proceed from another quarter; he was induced to declare, that however

decided he might be against any part of the regal power being invested in the Prince of Wales, as a matter of right, he was ready to say, that, as a matter of expediency, it was highly desirable, that whatever part of the regal power it might be necessary to exercise during the unhappy interval, should be vested in one person,—and that person, the Prince of Wales. That he also conceived it expedient, that his Royal Highness should exercise that portion of authority, unfettered by any permanent council; and with the free choice of his political servants. With regard to the portion of authority to be given, or withheld, it would be premature now to enter upon its discussion;—but he had no objection, even now, to declare, that whatever authority was necessary for carrying on public business with vigour and dispatch ought to be given. But, on the other hand, any authority not necessary for these purposes, and capable of being by possibility employed in any way that might tend to embarrass the exercise of

the King's lawful authority, when he should be enabled to resume it, ought to be withheld; because, from its being given, more inconvenience might arise to the future interests of the people and the crown, than any that could arise, in the mean time, from its temporary suspension. He concluded, that whatever authority was given to, or withheld from, the Regent, should be with a view to the moment when His Majesty should be capable of resuming his lawful prerogatives:—a circumstance to which it more peculiarly became him to attend—honoured as he was with the confidence of a Sovereign, to whom he was bound and attached by the strongest ties of gratitude.

Mr. F— then acknowledged the candour of the Minister in the statement he had given—and sought to qualify the force of his former assertions respecting the Prince's pretensions; saying, that when he had stated that the Prince had a right to exercise the royal authority, he undoubtedly meant, to exercise it as a trust

from the People,—which Parliament might resume, alter and modify, just as Parliament thought proper. If that trust were abused essentially, the People of England might resume it, without the Parliament, as had been done in the case of the Revolution.

This appearance of agreement was interrupted by Mr. S———, who, not content with expressing his warm approbation of his right honorable friend's speech, begged that the silence of those with whom he acted, on the subject of the abstract proposition, might not be construed into, or to be, a relinquishment of a right, which he cautioned the Minister against provoking the discussion of.

This highly incensed Mr. P—, who declared himself not only ready, but desirous, to meet it. The intervention of moderate men with difficulty appeased the irritation excited in both.

A great change in the Q——'s sentiments became apparent at this time. The neutrality Her Majesty had originally adopted was dis-

missed; and the proceedings of the Minister received her approbation and support. Many causes, probably, combined to produce the alteration. It was said, that apprehensions of the abuse of power by Opposition had been industriously infused, by those whose interest it was to withhold it from them. It was certainly known that Her Majesty gave implicit belief to the assurances of Dr. W——, that the recovery of the royal patient was not only probable—but, possibly, near at hand. With this persuasion, not only tenderness, but wisdom, dictated the conduct the Queen pursued. On the other hand, the Prince, confiding in the great and universally acknowledged preeminence of Dr. Warren—and remembering, that to his perspicuity and ingenuousness he owed the first knowledge of the real cause of His Majesty's indisposition—naturally considered his opinion as entitled to respect and deference. This gentleman, in strong terms, reprobated the assertion of an amended state; and unqualifiedly declared his incredulity re-

specting a happy issue. Influenced by such contrary impressions, unanimity of sentiment could not be expected. Doubt, distrust, and coldness, unhappily succeeded to the confidence, esteem, and cordial affection, which had hitherto soothed the sorrows of the august relatives of the afflicted monarch.

On Sunday the 14th an assembly of Opposition members, to the amount of one hundred and fifty, met at the D—— of P———'s. Mr. F— stated the necessity of firmness, unanimity, and exertion;—reprobated the contracted system of investing the Prince with the shadow of power, whilst the essentials were withheld;—declared, that the Prince ought not to give up the right of making Peers,—and insisted upon the necessity of the executive power enjoying the patronage of appointing to offices of the household.

To the obvious reasons which, in the present instance, subsisted against these claims or pretensions, Mr. F— ingenuously opposed the consequence of certain reforms made by

a valuable friend of his (Mr. Burke)—but which he had never been brought to approve. These had so circumscribed the power of obliging, that, if this source were not resorted to, a new Ministry would be destitute of the means of gratifying their friends.

On the 16th of December the attendance in the House of Commons exceeded, in point of number, any within the reach of memory. Five hundred and twenty-three members were present.

Mr. P— persisted in his resolution to go into the question of right—and concluded a speech of two hours and a half, with moving three resolutions: First, the King's inability. Second, that the Lords temporal and spiritual, and Commons, should take necessary steps for supplying this deficiency in the third estate. Third, that a new power should be created, for granting the Royal assent to such bills as the two Houses might pass for that purpose.

The Master of the Rolls followed the Chan-

cellor of the Exchequer,—producing precedents in support of his doctrines.

Lord North then, in a speech of great ability, deprecated the absurdity of wasting that time in the discussion of abstract questions, that ought to be employed in providing a supply for the present unhappy deficiency in the third estate. He went so far as to urge that, sitting as that assembly then was, it was competent to no business; and that, till the third estate should be made perfect, its resolutions could not be legal or efficient. He earnestly entreated that a sense of propriety in what respected that House, and sensibility for the misfortunes of an august family, might cooperate to prevent discussions that could produce only hurtful consequences. Lord North's speech was heard with profound respect, and appeared to make a proportionable impression.

Possibly, had Opposition paused here, a resolution favourable to their wishes might have been agreed to. Many members, zea-

lous for the Prince, could not yet resolve to abandon its interests. But perhaps their calculations deceived them; perhaps, apprised that Ministry would push their strong point, they thought they lost nothing by trying to exhibit it in the way they were tenacious of. Perhaps the feelings of their great leader, who, conceiving it below the dignity of a veteran to retreat, might determine to endeavour to do away, by ingenuity of argument, what he could not disavow, might impel them to enter upon a discussion which was so incautiously conducted, that the authority of the House became involved in the question.

Mr. P— perceived, and seized the advantage. He proposed, and triumphantly carried, three resolutions, which, whilst they seemed principally to regard the consequence of Parliament, tended to invest him with power to prescribe limits to whatever authority it might hereafter delegate; and so obscurely were they worded, that it afterwards became a subject of inquiry, whether the

Prince of Wales were the person he meant to propose for the exercise of the regal functions.

Favourable reports, industriously circulated, of essential amendment in the King, were doubtless of considerable influence in determining the event of this day's debate. The previous question was moved, and negatived, to the disappointment of Opposition, by a majority of 268 against 204.

Thursday the 18th brought a melancholy refutation of the flattering reports respecting the King. The physicians' note was, "The King became very unquiet in the evening of yesterday,—had a very bad night, and is much disturbed this morning."

The House, which had adjourned over Wednesday, met this day, and then learnt that a severe indisposition put it out of Mr. F—'s power to attend.

Mr. P—, to whom delay was advantage, was indifferent as to the cause. He professed to deem too highly of Mr. F—'s political con-

sequence to wish to go into the disquisition of any important point in his absence. The House accordingly adjourned till the next day.

Friday 19th. The accounts of the King were, "His Majesty has not had a good night, but is quiet this morning."

The House of Commons this day went through the two first propositions. But a general epidemic indisposition, and the lateness of the hour at which these were finished, inducing Opposition to wish for an adjournment, Mr. P— agreed to it, after expressing great regret for the necessity of delaying business, the completion of which was so much to be desired.

On Monday the 22d the great question was resumed; and the proposition to create a new power, by which a Regent should be appointed, was carried by a majority of seventy-seven—greatly to the mortification of Opposition—to whom it was sufficiently obvious that this was the prel ude to, or rather the means of, intro-

ducing the severe restraints by which the Minister wished to fetter the Regency.

A desire which the Prince had caused to be expressed, that some union might take place between the present Minister and those of his friends whom he should naturally wish to see in office, had not been received in the manner which the high rank of his Royal Highness, and the relation in which he stood to the Sovereign, to whom Mr. P— owed his situation, might have warranted the expectation of.

The form attending the carrying up the report from the Commons to the House of Lords, and the intervention of Christmas-day, determined the House to adjourn till Monday the 28th, when bills were expected to be presented, to ascertain the precise limits of the authority with which the Regent should be invested.

The King's state at this time encouraged no hope of speedy restoration. On Friday and Saturday His Majesty was much indisposed; and on Sunday his situation was de-

plorable. The coercive waistcoat was found to be insufficient—and a necessity arose of confining the Royal Sufferer in his bed for several hours. Exhausted strength, by degrees, rendered his efforts less powerful; and the failure of nature, rather than an abatement of the malady, produced an appearance of tranquillity. Violent exertions frequently repeated, long confinement, want of usual air and exercise, produced the most lamentable effects. The flesh, gradually wasted away, had left the bones, at every joint, hardly covered; and the whole of His Majesty's appearance was become so affecting, that even the Chancellor's strong mind was over-powered, at the first interview,—and a flood of tears witnessed the involuntary sensibility.

Unpleasant altercations had arisen amongst the physicians. W——, introduced by Addington, was strongly suspected of circulating reports, rather gratifying to the Minister than consonant to truth. He regularly sent to him every night a particular message—and gene-

rally, by his son. On the 16th, whilst the propositions were debating in the House of Commons, Mr. P— and his friends declared that that evening, at eleven o'clock, the son of Dr. W—— arrived at the Treasury with the satisfactory account that a happy change had taken place, and that Dr. W—— considered it as a certain indication of speedy and perfect recovery. Dr. Warren, whose observations on the morning of that day had suggested a very different opinion, was much surprised at this account. He hastened to Kew early on the morning of the 18th. . . . Dr. W—— met him in an anti-chamber,—assured him the King was going on vastly well,—said he was perfectly composed,—and begged that Dr. Warren would not make a point of seeing His Majesty, as his appearance would certainly disturb him. Warren, surprised at this language, desired to see the pages. To his first question, "How is the King?"—the reply was, "Very bad indeed." To his second, "What

sort of night has His Majesty passed?"—"A terrible one," was the melancholy answer.

Warren then insisted upon being introduced; and he had the affliction to find the person of the Illustrious Sufferer under the powerful restriction which violent paroxysms make indispensable.

1788. The sight of Warren produced no painful sensation. The King was not discomposed by it. A partial recollection, operating on a habitual consciousness of dignity (which never forsook His Majesty in his most unhappy moments), he was prompted to say, "I have been very ill indeed, Dr. Warren, and I have put myself into this waistcoat,—but it is uneasy to me;—will you take it off?" Warren hesitated a moment,—but, attentively surveying the Royal Sufferer, he perceived that his exhausted strength made the indulgence safe;—and he replied, untying the sad bonds, "most willingly do I obey you, Sir."

Warren afterwards remonstrated with W—

upon the disingenuousness of his conduct,—and protested that, so long as he should have the honour to retain his appointment to the care of the royal person, he should scrupulously discharge his duty to His Majesty and to the public;—whose anxious solicitude entitled them to full and true information respecting his state. W—— then resisting the request to subscribe the bulletin which the attending regular physicians conceived to be the proper one, great altercation ensued;—but he was, at length, induced to set his name to that which appeared on the 18th instant.

The perpetual diversity in opinion between the regular physicians and Dr. W—— were a source of much affliction to the Queen, and of perplexity to the people. The high reputation of the court-physicians, the extensive popularity they had justly acquired, not only amongst the inhabitants of the capital, but throughout the kingdom, gave them great superiority, in the general estimation, in a

competition with Dr. W——, whose retired situation, and restricted practice, had left him in a state of comparative obscurity.

On Friday the 26th. Propositions were carried to the House of Lords. The question of right was again introduced by the ministerial party, and a motion for an amendment to the third proposition, by which the Prince should be desired to assume the Regency, was rejected by a majority of ninety-nine to thirty-three. Lord Rawdon, the mover, spoke well, and with good effect. Lords Stormont, Loughborough, &c. exerted their eloquence to enforce the Prince's pretensions. The Chancellor, Marquis of Lansdown, and Lord Camden, were zealous advocates for the omnipotence of the People and the sacred claims of Majesty, which they maintained could be protected only by particular restraints upon him who might, for a time, exercise a delegated authority.

The Chancellor kindled into enthusiasm in expatiating upon what he owed to the infirm

Prince,—and what he thought due to his competent representative,—of whose excellence of heart, and powers of understanding, he professed to entertain the highest opinion.

No more than twenty-one members assembling in the House of Commons on Monday the 29th, the propositions which were returned from the House of Lords could not be received. On the following day a full attendance would have given admission to the propositions,—but the indisposition of the Speaker created a necessity of adjournment, which was extended to Thursday, in the hope of his entire re-establishment being effected in that time.

A general murmur at the want of consideration and respect for the Prince, which was thought to be but too evident from Mr. P—'s not explaining to his Royal Highness, or submitting to his examination, the system upon which he meant to establish a Regency, now determined him to send the particulars to Carlton House. The method in which this

was accomplished did not escape condemnation. They were inclosed in a common treasury-box,—and were left by an ordinary treasury-messenger. His Royal Highness felt some disgust at the mode of conveyance, and no small mortification at the purport of the communication. To a confidential person who was present His Royal Highness exclaimed, with some vivacity,—"The terms are too humiliating;—I cannot yet tell them even to you!" The Prince, to his great surprize, found inclosed in the same box a state of the finances, revenues, dependencies, &c. &c. of Hanover. The knowledge of these having ever been sacredly confined to the Sovereign and his confidential Ministers, the Prince considered the communication, at this juncture, as a tacit acknowledgment of the hopeless state of the King.

The determination of the Prince's council was, that some stand should be made upon the most promising ground;—that the strength of the Prince's interest amongst the Commons

should be tried upon the first strong question,—and that the event then must determine further proceedings; but it was generally deemed expedient that the Prince should accept the regency upon any terms, in order to wrest power from hands which were deemed as unwarrantably, as forcibly, to grasp it.

31st. A series of accounts, not unfavourable, had been sent to St. James's,—and the ministerial newspapers circulated a strong probability of the King's speedy recovery. Dr. W— encouraged the idea;—but none of the regular physicians were forward to confirm it. Dr. Warren, on the contrary, declared to the Prince, in positive terms, that no subject could afford less hope. To understand the accounts sent by authority, he asserted that a new glossary would be necessary. "The word 'calm,'" he said, "would there be found to mean not 'absolutely raving,'—and to 'rather disturbed,' would there be found annexed 'outrageous phrenzy!'" He protested that, since the commencement of the lamented malady, His

Majesty had never known a lucid interval of three hours' duration. And he freely expressed his apprehension that his constitution must sink under attacks in the force of which there was no abatement.

Opposition considering Warren's declaration as conclusive authority,—and Ministry reposing implicit confidence in W—'s assertions,—they inevitably imbibed, and resolved tenaciously to adhere to, opinions diametrically opposite. Opposition believed themselves engaged in the assertion of a just right, attempted to be unlawfully withheld,—and Ministry deemed themselves bound to the defence of a sacred trust, attempted to be forcibly wrested from them.

The great leaders of both parties prepared to assert and maintain their respected causes with all the zeal and energy that the consideration of duties imposed, or obligations devolved, could excite in minds of transcendent powers and keen sensibility to honourable motives.

The people at large—unbiassed by any

private consideration—were generally inclined to melancholy conclusions. The writings of the most eminent medical men upon mental maladies were found to contain principles that confirmed the worst apprehensions. The celebrated Dr. Blacke's elaborate treatise upon this subject, which was universally consulted, furnished only confirmations of all they dreaded. And the sanguine expectations cherished by the Queen were generally considered as the illusory dreams of an amiable and subdued mind, rendered susceptible, by affliction, of influence from causes which in other circumstances would have had no weight with it.

The Prince, having understood that the Ch——— had used some expressions of which he thought he had cause to complain, desired to see his lordship, and generously afforded him an opportunity of vindicating himself if the rumour were unfounded. The Ch——— assured His Royal Highness that he never had, even in thought, deviated from the very profound respect he owed him. He begged to

know the full extent of what he had been charged with, in the full confidence of being able to exculpate himself. His lordship proceeded to say, that what opinions he had publicly advanced, his legal situation compelled;—but that he felt himself strongly devoted to His Royal Highness; and that he might assure himself that he should on no account unite with Mr. P—, or enter into any opposition to His Royal Highness's government, when his dismission, which he saw was at hand, should take place. He should, on the contrary, give it every support in his power;—and if, at a future day, his services should be thought of use, he should be happy to offer them. The Ch——— spoke of Mr. P— as a haughty, impracticable spirit, with whom it would be impossible for him ever cordially to unite. He added, that the whole party was split, divided, disunited—in a manner that would prevent their ever acting in opposition with vigour and effect.

The Chancellor had the preceding day an

interview with Dr. Warren, who then effectually satisfied his mind of the almost impossibility of the King's recovery. He laid great stress upon His Majesty's age, which he considered as very inauspicious,—and adduced so many arguments in support of his opinion that the Chancellor exclaimed, "by G—, I am entirely of your way of thinking."

1st, of Jan. 1789. The Duke of Y—— this day began the execution of a plan to propitiate and attach members of the House of Commons. It having been deemed improper for the Prince to appear to court suffrages, the Duke honoured those who were presumed to be well disposed to His Royal Highness with invitations to his table. Twenty-one members had the honour to be entertained this day; and cards for three more successive parties were issued.

2d. of Jan. The Speaker had attended the House of Commons on Monday the 29th of December. His illness was first spoken of on Tuesday, and various rumours prevailed on

Wednesday and Thursday, that the disorder was political, and terminable at pleasure. But on Friday morning, at nine o'clock, the awful event of an actual dissolution rescued his character from the imputation of duplicity.

The political character of the Speaker was such, that only the peculiar conjuncture in which he died could have given importance to the event. A mind of contracted powers had precluded him from attainments that were either splendid or profound;—and he owed to fortuitous circumstances his elevation to a dignity which he was not well qualified to sustain. A blameable indulgence in unworthy propensities made him sometimes guilty of impropriety in the execution of his office;—and sometimes incapacitated him for enforcing the observance of established forms. Such was the extraordinary national situation, that the death of this gentleman became a source of great embarrassment!

One of two great estates, sitting without that sanction from a third which only

could entitle them to be considered as legislative assemblies and give validity to their acts, was now deprived of an essential part, without being legally possessed of power to replace it. Some were of opinion that the Ministerial fabrication by which it was intended to communicate the powers of Regency, would be brought into action to supply this deficiency. Others, zealous for the Heir Apparent's importance, and anxious to see him in the exercise of authority, imagined that this event ought to accelerate proceedings, and place His Royal Highness, at once, with unanimous consent, in the possession of that consequence which they judged necessary for the appointment of a new Speaker. But the bold and resolute genius of Mr. P— passing over all form, it was proposed and resolved that the House should proceed to the *nomination* of a new Speaker on Monday the 5th of January.

The restrictions were now publicly known; and were—first, that the Regent should make

no Peers;—second, that he should grant no patent places for a longer period than His Majesty's indisposition;—third, that he should remove no person of the household, the unlimited control of which should be vested in Her Majesty;—fourth, that he should have no power over the real or personal estates of His Majesty, the absolute dominion over which should rest with the Queen. According to the opinion formed on the great subject of discussion, these restrictions were judged necessary and wise, or illiberal and unjust.

The Prince this day received a letter from Dr. W——, to inform him of essential amendment in the King. The Queen wrote to Mr. P— to the same effect. Ministry presumed much upon these communications, and expressed their hopes that his Majesty might be well enough on Monday to signify his approbation of a Speaker. Dr. Warren was still tenacious of his former opinion,—and assured the Prince that, though the King was not then in the deplorable way in which he had

often seen him, there was nothing in His Majesty's present state that could warrant the expectation of recovery. The Prince, confiding in Warren's judgment, naturally considered the favourable reports as mere fabrications, to serve a sinister purpose,—and could not refrain from some expressions against the Queen,—who, relying upon the infallibility of W——, considered the Prince's backwardness to credit her assurances as an argument of his discontent at the nature of them. Officious persons, acting from indiscreet zeal, if not from still more reprehensible motives, contributed to increase the subsisting discontents. * * * *.

The entertainments given by the Duke of Y—— having for their avowed object the conciliation of Members of both Houses, the conversation there naturally rested upon subjects interesting to the P——. At the three first His Royal Highness was present, and expatiated with great eloquence upon "the indignities and injustice he had experienced from the

usurpers of those powers of which he conceived he ought to be possessed as the natural representative of a father, unhappily incapable of exercising them; and, to the infinite affliction of his family, not likely to be ever again in a situation to hold the reins of government." The P—— spoke copiously,—expressed himself with great propriety, and a degree of eloquence that would have ensured attention if his rank had not commanded it. His Royal Highness gave a particular detail of some transactions at Windsor, in the beginning of the King's illness. He said, "Reports have been circulated that I had frequent interviews with Mr. P—. The truth is, I saw him but once during my stay at Windsor. In the first days of the King's illness, and before I had recovered from the shock it occasioned me, some person told me that Mr. P— and the Duke of R—— were come. My mind fully occupied by the sad state of things, I hardly heard,—and it soon escaped my recollection that they were there."

" Some time after, Mr. St. L—— entered the room, and told me that the Duke of R—— and Mr. P— had been waiting two hours. I awoke as it were from a trance, and desired that they might be instantly admitted. The Duke was most obsequious,—bowed incessantly. Mr. P— was most stately;—he said he should do so and so,—and looked with unforgiving haughtiness!"

Adverting to the King's private concerns, the Prince said "that in a lucid interval of some hours, before His Majesty left Windsor, he had talked consistently of the state of his affairs;—said he had written, some time since, directions respecting the distribution he wished to have made of his property; but he doubted whether they were properly prepared. He hoped, however, that the purport would be attended to. The money he could dispose of was, he said, six hundred thousand pounds. Having six daughters, it was his wish to give each one hundred thousand pounds. His daughters he had ever considered as the ob-

jects of his peculiar care.—His sons easily might, and certainly would, be provided for by the—nation ;—but for his daughters a provision might not, perhaps, be made without difficulty."

The Prince proceeded to say, " he had assured the Queen he should be most happy to conform, in every thing, to the wishes of his royal father ;—and he promised that every indication of his intentions, previous to his lamented indisposition, should be religiously observed. Her Majesty having then received no unworthy impression, was satisfied and happy in receiving this assurance ;—and permitted him and the Duke of Y—— to assist in packing up, and to put their seals upon, the crown jewels, and some valuable moveables of the King's,—which, together with the Queen's jewels, were conveyed to Kew when the Queen went thither." The Prince added, " he had now to lament a sad revolution in Her Majesty's opinion—which had been effected by mischievous and designing per-

sons. He had received a letter from Her Majesty, of her own writing, but not of her own dictating. It charged him with designing to take advantage of the weak state of the King to get possession of his treasures; and to change the whole face of things." Ladies ————, H—— and C—— were censured by His Royal Highness as the advisers of this letter. He said he had charged the last mentioned with a knowledge of it; and, if he had not before had a certainty of it, her confusion would have given it.

The Prince complained of the personal indignity with which Mr. P— had treated him on every occasion. He specified two important instances of most indecorous conduct towards him. The summonses to Members of the Privy Council to examine the Physicians (of which he had received no previous intimation), and the restrictions upon the power of a Regent, had both been sent by common treasury-messengers, and left without ceremony with a porter at Carlton-House!

The Prince was not present at the fourth

and last entertainment. The Duke of Y—— entered upon the interesting detail of the injury done to his brother in withholding his acknowledged rights, and of the imposition practised upon the Public by fallacious representations of the King's state. His Royal Highness said, "it must be imagined that the subject was a most painful one to him; that only the solicitude he felt to impress a sense of his brother's wrongs, and to warn gentlemen whom there was a design to mislead, could have induced him to enter upon it." His Royal Highness spoke concisely but clearly. He declared "that a string of fallacies had been obtruded upon the public; gave his royal word that not one of the King's children was permitted to approach him; and lamented that "the Queen, wrought upon by insidious arts—particularly by the machinations of the C——, seemed resolved to abet the daring attempt to supersede his brother's just pretensions, and to promote the views of those most inimical to him."

His Royal Highness then mentioned an

attempt, on the preceding Thursday, to prevent Sir G. B——'s seeing the King, which was rendered abortive by his steadily refusing to sign the Bulletin if that were not permitted. The Duke said " that endeavours had also been used, the following day, to prevent Dr. Warren's entering the royal chamber, W—— assuring him that the King was in such a state as promised immediate recovery, and that his presence would do harm. Warren, upon an acknowledgment being extorted that the Queen had seen the King that morning, insisted upon being admitted—as one whose presence was less likely to agitate the royal mind. He found His Majesty sitting quietly, and attentively considering a court calender, which he was translating from beginning to end into doggerel Latin. He accosted Warren upon his entrance, " Ricardensus Warrenensus Baronettensus." The Duke said " Warren had assured him that, after a long and minute examination, he brought

away the melancholy conviction that the mind was only subdued, and that its sanity was in no degree restored."

On the Duke's being asked What was the general state of his Majesty's health?—he replied "He was told that he was deplorably emaciated; but that that circumstance was as much concealed as possible." His Royal Highness said "that the Queen seemed no longer to have confidence in any person but the C——, who, while he was flattering Her Majesty with every demonstration of zeal, was paying obsequious court to his brother." He added, "He seems to have learnt a lesson of duplicity from P—. The C——," the Duke continued, "seldom fails to receive three or four letters a day from the Q——, and he generally sees her once every day. Till concealments respecting the King began to be practised, and till the Q— suddenly declared her resolution to accept the Regency, if the Prince would not accept it with severe restric-

tions, my brother and myself omitted not one day paying our duty to her. But since these events our visits have been discontinued."

The Duke concluded by expressing in strong terms "the misery he felt at being compelled to make an appeal to the Public, that induced the necessity of exposing circumstances, over which every principle of delicacy, feeling, and filial affection prompted his royal brother and himself to throw a veil; and which a sense of what they owed to that Public could alone prevent their interposing;—their duty to *that* outweighing, in their estimation, all that could affect themselves."

Monday 5th of Jan. 1789. The choice of a Speaker constituted the business of this day. Mr. Pitt espoused Mr. Grenville's interest, and Opposition that of Sir Gilbert Elliot. A great majority evinced the superior influence of the former.

The supineness and negligence formerly ascribed to some distinguished Members of Opposition evidently appeared on this occa-

sion not to have been wholly corrected. General Burgoigne, Messrs. Sheridan, Payne, Beckford, with twenty-six others, interested in the credit of the division of this day, did not arrive at the House of Commons till the doors were locked. Mr. Steele, perceiving the advantage, with commendable zeal hurried on and concluded the business.

Tuesday was expected to have discussed the degree of power to be entrusted to the Regent; but conversations arising, in the beginning of the debate, respecting the doubtful reports of physicians, a wish was expressed for their further examination. Mr. P— opposed the motion, as productive only of delay; alleging that, in the present melancholy state of affairs, with the embarrassments of which he, from the situation it was his misfortune to hold, was perhaps best acquainted, the House could not too speedily proceed to restore the exercise of the royal authority, and establish a government that might act with vigour and effect. This grave declama-

tion excited some clamor from Opposition, who were fully sensible how little advantageous delays had been to them.

Mr. F— declared that, under the pressure of contradictory reports, it was impossible for gentlemen to form a right judgment, and decide upon these measures which ought to be wholly regulated by the probability, or the contrary, of His Majesty's recovery. He said the Ch——— had declared in the other House that there was such improvement in the King's health as to warrant the expectation of speedy and complete recovery. It was proper, therefore, that the House should know what change had taken place since the examination of physicians. However, Mr. F— said, as Mr. P— did not mean to rest his measures upon real or supposed alteration, but on the evidence of physicians, which declared an actual incapacity, he would consent to enter upon the state of the nation, if it might be considered that they proceeded upon the former declaration,—that there was a great probability that the King would recover, but a

great uncertainty respecting the time; with this additional circumstance, which would detract, in some degree, from the probability of recovery,—that a month had elapsed, and no symptom of returning health had appeared.

After a long debate, the re-examination of physicians was agreed to, and fixed for the following day. Mr. P— professing great anxiety for the establishment of an executive government, and great concern at useless delays.

If Mr. P— was sincere in his urgency to establish a Regency, it was obvious that it could proceed only from a belief that the hopes of the King's recovery were losing ground; and that, consequently, the repugnance to impose severe restrictions must increase. And it was, assuredly, the expectation of gaining intelligence which by diminishing the probability of the King's recovery, would augment the political importance of the Prince, and dispose to favour his pretensions, that led Mr. F— to court a delay, that might be

amply compensated by an enlargement of the Regent's powers.

Jan. 9th, 1789. The examination of the physicians began on the 7th instant. The general health of the King was acknowledged by all to be improved. Those who respected the skill of W— considered his assurances of an approaching convalescence, and his assertions of such success in the exercise of his profession, —that he had in the course of thirty years cured not less than nine in ten of those committed to his care, and had never erred in the judgment formed upon a first interview,—as the language of a man rendered confident by the consciousness of superior endowments and extraordinary professional knowledge.

Those whose prepossessions had led them to contemn W— listened to his declarations as to the vain boasting of a presuming empiric, and derived no hope from his assertions.

The only circumstance of any consequence that occurred in the course of these examinations, which extended through several days,

was the ascertaining that symptoms of malady had appeared before the date of that act which was considered as the King's will. Sir G— B— declared that he was satisfied of the nature of the complaint on the 22d of October 1789. The instrument it was said bore the date of the following day.

16th January. The various causes which had produced delay being now all removed, the House of Commons entered upon the discussion of the great question,—"What powers should be allowed a Regent."

Mr. P—'s decided majority in that House enabled him to establish all his restrictions there; and the Lords, with equal facility, gave assent to them in theirs. The measure was carried in the House of Lords by 91 against 68.

Much eloquence was displayed by both sides in both Houses, and numberless ingenious arguments were adduced to support opinion and effect conversion. But, on persons predetermined to support particular parties, the eloquence of angels would fail to

produce effect; and it must not be imputed to conviction of the unreasonableness of the restrictions, but to the allurements of office, and persuasion of the King's irremediable malady, that two noble Lords went over to the Minority on the division of this day.

24th of Jan. The King had been terribly affected during the last seven or eight days. On the 19th His Majesty had been induced to walk in the garden. The anxiety of the amiable and Royal Female Relatives drew them to an upper window. Regardless of every thing but his own impulses, His M— threw his hat into the air, and hurled a stick he held in his hand to an incredible distance,—such was the force that animated him. His Majesty then proceeded with a rapid movement towards the pagoda, which he was very desirous to ascend. Being thwarted in that, he became sullen and desperate, threw himself upon the earth, and so great was his strength, and so powerful his resistance, that it was three quarters of an hour before W— and four assistants could raise him.

On the 30th of January deputations from the Lords and Commons waited upon the Queen at Kew and upon the Prince at Carlton-House, to present the resolutions of the two Estates; and to ask the concurrence of the former, and the acceptance of the latter.

The Prince's reply, which had been well considered, and judiciously framed, was delivered with excellent elocution and inimitable grace.

That Heaven delights to sport with the views of man has often seemed apparent; but stronger exemplifications of it than in the events of this period were never beheld.

After infinite altercation,—after fruitless labour to obtain more by the Prince,—after an unprecedented resistance by the Minister, who defended post after post, and, at length, yielded upon terms becoming a victor to impose,—the Regency Bill passed the House of Commons on Wednesday the 12th of February, and was carried up to the Lords on the following day;—a general expectation prevailing, that its completion on the ensuing Tuesday would give the Prince, on the suc-

ceeding day, authority to exercise such powers as it was calculated to invest him with.

Final arrangements amongst the members of Opposition were made; and all held themselves ready to step into those places the resignation of which was considered as certain, and at hand.

But positive assurances of less violent paroxysms, and longer intervals in His Majesty's disorder, with a series of good nights and quiet days, announced from the 7th of February, arrested all proceedings at the moment the most important changes were expected to take place.

Favourable accounts sent by Dr. W— were received by one party as oracular, and rejected by the other as unwarranted assertions—calculated to answer some unworthy purpose. When it is considered that in the moral, no less than in the physical, world, the appearance of objects depends more upon the medium through which they are viewed than upon their own original properties, we cease to wonder that candid and enlightened minds should

draw opposite conclusions from the same causes. And, while we deplore the imperfection of our nature, which thus subjects us to illusion, we learn to respect the steadiness and consistency of those whose uniform tenor of action manifests an adherence to principles of conduct deliberately adopted. Equally in the resistance of Mr. P—, and in the perseverance of Mr. F—, do we find motives to call forth our admiration of, and esteem for, the faithful Minister, and the ardent friend.

But, however great and patriotic might be the motives of the leaders of Opposition, it would be absurd to suppose that every member of so large a body should be under the influence of laudable considerations. The emoluments of office are, doubtless, the primary objects with the majority: and the pressure of pecuniary wants, and petulance of humour, now aggravated by disappointment, impelled many to indecorous expressions and unjustifiable proceedings. The adherents of the Minister, also, irritated and provoked, and now beginning to feel the exultation of

renewed hope, allowed themselves a latitude not reconcileable to strict propriety or candid construction: and much abuse and rancorous invective were freely circulated on both sides.

But the really dignified characters who presided over the councils, though they could not always govern the conduct of all of the opposing parties, pursued a rational, steady, and uniform system.

The Duke of P——d and Mr. F— endeavoured to convince those who depended upon them, not only of the indelicacy of seeking to precipitate measures, but also of the weighty inconveniences to themselves that must result from a temporary possession of that power they so eagerly panted for. And the passionate suggestion of some of the party—that it should be seized, were it but for one day, that they might have the gratification of displacing P— and his adherents—met with proper condemnation alike from the solid judgment of the Duke and the generous temper of Mr. F—;—both declaring that no consi-

deration should induce them to accept appointments, if a hope existed of the King's being restored to the exercise of his royal functions.

13th February. The Prince and the Duke of Y—, having received letters from Dr. W— informing them of material amendment in the King, went immediately to Kew, in the hope of being admitted to his presence. But the Q—, who received them, could not be induced to permit an interview.

At this time a determination, carried by a large majority in the Houses of the Lords and Commons of Ireland, to invest the Prince of Wales with the regency of that kingdom, without restriction,—and which had been violently opposed by the Lord Lieutenant, Lord B————m,—was known here. His Lordship's refusal to transmit the resolutions inspired the spirited idea of sending over a deputation from each House, to make the respectful and dutiful tender of them to His Royal Highness.

19th of February. The Prince and the Duke of Y— repeated their visit to Kew; but the Q— still judged it inexpedient for them to be admitted to the King. Her Majesty informed Their Royal Highnesses, that, as soon as it should become proper for them to see the King, they should be apprised of it by her.

February the 20th. The Chancellor acquainted the Lords that the King's health was then in such a progress towards perfect re-establishment, that there was a probability their Lordships' interference would be no longer necessary. The Duke of Y— replied, that, "as nothing could give him greater happiness than the restoration of his royal father, so he should have felt it a peculiar gratification to have been enabled to give Their Lordships an assurance of its probability from any authority; and he could not without infinite regret acknowledge that he had not yet been permitted to see the King, though he had gone to Kew the preceding day in the hope of receiving that indulgence." His Royal High-

ness added, "that his brother must rejoice even more than himself at His Majesty's perfect recovery, as that must deliver him from embarrassments which the nature of the bill must render almost insupportable; and which only his attachment to the State, and affection for the People, could have induced him to subject himself to."

The Chancellor's motion of adjournment till the 24th was carried without a reply or division.

On the 23d the Prince and the Duke of Y—— went, upon invitation from the Q——, to Kew, and were admitted to the King. Her Majesty and Colonel Digby only were present. The King behaved with composure, and talked rationally. The conversation was confined to topics that were general and indifferent; the death of General Wynyard, and the resignation of General Hyde, were principally dwelt upon. It was observed by the royal brothers that the King's attention was chiefly directed to the Duke of Y——, for whom it was supposed he had ever entertained a partiality.

On Tuesday the 24th the Chancellor informed the Lords that he was just then returned from waiting upon His Majesty, whose commands had summoned him. He said he had had the honour of conversing upwards of an hour with him; and found his mental powers in such a state, as gave him most confident hopes of the speedy and complete restoration of His Majesty's ability to exercise, in their fullest extent, his royal functions.

His Lordship then moved a further adjournment till the 3d of March.

The expectation of the arrival of the Irish Delegates probably induced some precipitancy in the measures pursued respecting the King. His Majesty's bodily health was now greatly improved, and absence of violent paroxysms for several days, with increased collectedness of mind, bespoke essential amendment. It was wished that this should be considered as absolute and rapid progress towards convalescence. Dr. W——'s assistants were dismissed on the 22d; and certain tradesmen of Windsor were

introduced to perform the business of dressing and undressing His Majesty, which, till then, W——'s people had done; but the Ch—— disapproving this arrangement, the former system was reverted to, and they were recalled.

Both Houses met on the 3d of March; the Chancellor spoke in strong and decided terms of His Majesty's capacity to exercise his royal functions.

Mr. P— simply informed the Commons, that His Majesty's amended health gave him reason to hope he might make his pleasure known to them on Tuesday the 10th of March, to which day the House immediately adjourned.

The ministerial party employed the interval in rejoicing in the accomplishment of their hopes;—Opposition, in reprobating the arts which, they maintained, had substituted fallacy for truth. The extreme caution and reserve that enveloped the proceedings at Kew were not calculated to disperse suspicion. Mr. R——, his Majesty's oldest and most trusted page, the person whom he had long em-

ployed to copy his private correspondences, was dismissed; he was said to be too inquisitive, and too communicative. Three other pages were also displaced. Dr. John W——, son to the eminent practitioner and a student of his art, was appointed private secretary to the King, and four of Dr. W——'s men remained about the royal person, performing those offices which were in the page's province.

The Prince had been refused admittance to the King, and had patiently acquiesced. The Duke of Y——, attempting to visit him, and being told by Dr. W——, on the 4th of March, that it was improper H. R. H. should be admitted to his Majesty, gave a loose to his resentment,—asked by what authority he presumed to prevent his seeing his father, and threatened to knock him down if he dared to oppose him. Dr. W—— then besought permission to apprise the Q—— of the visit. To this the Duke consented, stipulating that the Doctor should not be present at the interview

which His Royal Highness declared *should* take place. The Q—— then hastened to the King's apartment,—and the Duke was admitted.

His Royal Highness did not depart with favourable impressions of the King's state; he scrupled not to declare that he thought His Majesty very deficient in mental powers, and that he believed something like fatuity had succeeded to irritation.

Ministry persisted in the assertion of His Majesty's perfect restoration of mental faculties; no deficiency in which, but apprehension of fatigue alone, they said, preventing his meeting his Parliament; and they repeated the assurance that a message would be received by it from His Majesty on Tuesday the 10th inst.

On the evening of the 8th, a Cabinet Council was held at Kew. The Ch——— went between the King and the Members who composed it, and the message was arranged by them in an adjoining apartment.

In the speech delivered by the Chancellor to the two Houses of Parliament, on the 10th of

March, the King conveyed to them his warmest acknowledgments for the additional proofs they had given of attachment to his person, and concern for the honour and interest of his crown.

On Thursday the 12th, the Duke of Y—— visited His Majesty, whom he found carefully examining a great number of spectacles, and selecting, with peculiar care, some which he said were for his dear Eliza. To change the conversation, the Duke informed His Majesty that he had three desertions from his regiment. The King, impatient of the interruption, broke out into violent abuse of the Duke and his regiment, and became so perturbed that the Q—— was obliged to command the attendance of Dr. W——. On his appearance the storm instantly subsided; His Majesty became quite composed: he talked of an intention to visit Germany; told the Duke that he should send over a curricle and six small grays, and drive the Queen, himself, through

that country. His Majesty spoke of the high satisfaction he promised himself from visiting Potsdam and seeing the Prussian army.

During the whole of this estrangement from reason, the subject which most frequently occurred, and with the most forcible effect upon the royal mind, was the American war. The recollection of the proceedings in it, and of the consequences that followed, often produced violent agitation, and strong expressions of resentment against individuals. Lord North was always adverted to;—but ever in a manner expressive of the natural tenderness, humanity and placability of His Majesty's disposition. He never failed to conclude, respecting His Lordship, in the same words, uttered in a hurried, but softened and feeling tone,—"I was once very angry with him,—but since his misfortune* I have felt only compassion for him."

* A total privation of the blessing of sight.

The Duke of Y—— on his arrival in town went to the House of Lords, where the Ch—— had just given assurances of His Majesty's excellent state.

Upon His Royal Highness's communicating to His Lordship the result of his observations, the Ch——, in his characteristic manner, replied, "By G— they always contrive to wind the King up when I am to see him, and he appears very well before me."

These circumstances alone might have justified suspicion in an Heir Apparent, whom unfortunate family divisions had excluded from a participation of the counsels adopted. But it should be remembered that they had all possible aggravation from the opinion, repeatedly given, of the first medical authority then existing: Dr. Warren to the last asserted that the malady was, in its nature, incurable; he persisted in believing that those relapses in mental recovery, which have since happily been proved to be of the nature of those which

are known frequently to occur in the approach towards convalescence in the bodily system, were prognostics of a quality and degree of disorder that could never be overcome. When these particulars shall be duly considered, the patient endurance, the dutiful acquiescence, and the temperate procedure of His Royal Highness, will be found to reflect the brightest lustre upon his character.

Of Dr. Warren it is but justice to add, that his known integrity and high sense of honour prevent the smallest doubt of the purity of the motives by which he was actuated. And we must seek for the causes of misrepresentation in that fallibility in the highest human powers, of which Heaven sometimes permits illustrious examples, to warn presumptuous man of the danger of depending upon his own resources!

Eighteen months' residence in Ireland had gradually diminished the popularity which the

Marquis of B——— enjoyed on his arrival there.

The accession of a new governing power inspires in every State the fond hope that every deficiency experienced during the influence of a former, will then be amply supplied; and the sanguine nature of man, unchecked by repeated disappointment, leads him ever to welcome the new comer as the benefactor from whom he is to receive the full measure of felicity. But as even the beneficence of Heaven itself cannot satisfy the opposite desires of all who ask, the limited powers of man, however high his authority, must, in every situation, leave many unsatisfied; and it rarely happens that he who exercises sovereign sway, retires in the possession of that animated regard which was displayed on his entrance upon it: the character remains unchanged; but, beheld through the different mediums presented by hope and disappointment, it exhibits two appearances, as unlike each other as both are remote from reality.

The number and magnitude of the causes of complaint which existed in Ireland, made it impossible to effect their redress with the promptitude which those who felt their pressure naturally desired. Hence arose one inevitable source of discontent.

In the new Viceroy's distribution of honours, and in his appointment of a brother to a place of great emolument, which had ever heretofore been enjoyed by a native, were found important subjects of discontent.

Other causes, of a personal nature, contributed to divert from this nobleman that tide of popular regard which had greeted his arrival. A certain stateliness of deportment, and reserve of manner, had, from the beginning, repressed the cordial inclinations of some persons of superior situation and distinguished talents, who had felt disposed to demonstrate a devotion to His Excellency, and to aspire to the honour of his confidence. Habits of extreme temperance and strict ceremony rendered his public entertainments little captivating to a

people whose warm hearts and generous natures prompt them to delight in hospitable practices and convivial effusions; and the slow recurrence of these entertainments, not less than the style in which they were conducted, suggesting that parsimony of mind, as well as want of good affections for the people of Ireland, had its influence, a sentiment of contempt mingled with resentment. The Lord Lieutenant's œconomy became the subject of ridicule, his government of aversion, and powerful prejudice prevented an investigation of character, which would have given a knowledge of excellent qualities and rare endowments. His Excellency's parliamentary influence seemed to be annihilated. On the meeting of the two Housés, the question for entering upon the state of the nation was proposed by Opposition in each; and the attempt to elude it by adjournment was negatived by great majorities. Unqualified expressions of dislike of men, and condemnation of measures, were uttered by its popular leaders; and a vote,

to the mortification and consternation of Ministers, was passed in each House by a great majority, to request the Prince of Wales to accept the Regency of that kingdom, without condition and without restriction.

Committees, waiting upon the Lord L——— to desire him to transmit the Addresses of the two Houses to the Prince, were informed by His Excellency, that "he could not, consistently with his oath, transmit Addresses purporting to invest His Royal Highness with powers to take upon him the government of that realm, before he was by law entitled to do so."

Highly incensed as both Houses were by this refusal, they preserved so much judgment as to decline deliberating upon it till the first effervescence of resentment might be presumed to have subsided. They adjourned to a future day, and then entered upon a discussion which produced a resolution that implied an actual, but not intemperate, censure upon the Lord L———.

The Duke of Leinster and Lord Charlemont were named by the Lords, and Mr. Connolly, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Ponsonby, and Mr. Stuart, by the Commons, to present to the Prince an Address, praying his acceptance of the Regency, without restriction, during the indisposition of the King.

These noblemen and gentlemen, embarking immediately, left Ireland before the intelligence of the King's convalescence reached it. Their arrival in London excited high displeasure in the ministerial party; whose language was, that the Address, in the present favourable state of things, ought to be considered as an act of treason against the King's sacred person.

The delegates arrived in town on the 26th of February. The event was immediately announced to the Prince, who appointed five o'clock the ensuing day for receiving the Address. The delegates were attended by the Duke of Devonshire and several other noblemen, &c. &c. of distinguished rank and pro-

perty. Their reception from the Prince was highly gracious; and His Royal Highness replied to the Address in terms equally expressive of his sense of duty and affection to the King, and of his sensibility of, and gratitude for, this distinguished mark of confidence from the Kingdom of Ireland.

The Irish delegates were treated with the highest distinction and consideration by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York during their stay in London. They were regarded, by all who were attached to the Prince's interest, as the representatives of a loyal, generous, and enlightened people; who evinced, at once, their attachment to the House of Brunswic, and their just discernment of the measures proper to be pursued under circumstances awful, critical and unprecedented.

These distinguished and illustrious personages had an audience, to receive the Prince's final commands, on the 11th of March. They were attended by a numerous and respectable body of noblemen and gentlemen, English as

well as Irish, and they were received by His Royal Highness with that mixture of high dignity and gracious condescension, peculiar to himself, which is so calculated to elevate him in the esteem, and endear him to the affections, of all who behold it.

The words of His Royal Highness's communication were not immediately made known, it being deemed a mark of respect for the people of Ireland to have it imparted to them before it should meet the public ear*.

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* *Answer of the* Prince of Wales *to the Address presented by the Delegates of the two Houses of Parliament of* Ireland.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE Address from the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons of Ireland, which you have presented to me, demands my warmest and earliest thanks. If any thing could add to the esteem and affection I have for the people of Ireland, it would be the loyal and affectionate attachment to the person and government of the King my father, manifested in the Address of the two Houses.

What they have done, and their manner of doing it, is a new proof of their undiminished duty to His Majesty,

March the 10th. The Bulletins of the three preceding days announced a quiet state. The account of this day stated, that His Majesty had had a very good night, and possessed

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of their uniform attachment to the House of Brunswick, and their constant attention to maintain inviolate the concord and connexion between the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, so indispensably necessary to the prosperity, the happiness, and the liberties of both.

If, in conveying my grateful sentiments on their conduct, in relation to the King my father, and to the inseparable interest of the two kingdoms, I find it impossible to express adequately my feelings on what relates to myself, I trust you will not be the less disposed to believe that I have an understanding to comprehend the value of what they have done, a heart that must remember, and principles that will not suffer me to abuse their confidence.

But the fortunate change which has taken place in the circumstance which gave occasion to the Address agreed to by the Lords and Commons of Ireland, induces me to delay for a few days giving a final answer, trusting that the joyful event of His Majesty's resuming the personal exercise of his royal authority, may then render it only necessary for me to repeat those sentiments of gratitude and affection to the loyal and generous people of Ireland, which I feel indelibly imprinted on my heart.

this morning more than usual recollection. The next day His Majesty was declared better. The succeeding one he was pronounced to be

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Second Answer of the Prince of Wales *to the Deputation from both Houses of the Parliament of* Ireland, March 12.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The happy event of the King's recovery, and the consequent re-assumption of the exercise of his auspicious government, announced by his royal commission for declaring the further causes of holding the Parliament of Great Britain, has done away the melancholy necessity which gave rise to the arrangement proposed by the Parliament of Ireland; but nothing can obliterate from my memory and my gratitude, the principles upon which that arrangement was made, and the circumstances by which it was attended.

I consider your generous kindness to His Majesty's royal family, and the provision you made for preserving the authority of the crown in its constitutional energy, as the most unequivocal proof which could be given of your affectionate loyalty to the King, at the time when, by an afflicting dispensation of Providence, his government had suffered an intermission, and his house was deprived of its natural protector.

I shall not pay so ill a compliment to the Lords and Commons of Ireland, as to suppose that they were mistaken

in a progressive state of amendment. The Bulletin of the 13th said, His Majesty had had four hours sleep, and was going on well.

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in their reliance on the moderation of my views and the purity of my intentions. A manly confidence directing the manner of proceeding toward those who entertain sentiments becoming the high situation to which they are born, furnishes the most powerful motives to the performance of their duty; at the same time that the liberality of sentiment which in conveying a trust confers an honour, can have no tendency to relax that provident vigilance and that public jealousy which ought to watch over the exercise of power.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Though full of joy for the event which enables me to take leave of you in this manner, personally, I cannot but regret your departure; I have had the opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of your private characters, and it has added to the high esteem which I had before entertained for you on account of your public merits; both have made you the worthy representatives of the great bodies to which you belong.

I am confident that I need not add my earnest recommendation to the Parliament and People of Ireland to continue to cultivate the harmony of the two kingdoms, which in their mutual perfect freedom will find the closest as well as happiest bond of their connexion.

The Bulletins of the 14th, 15th, and 16th, pronounced a progress in amendment. That of the 17th proclaimed a state of actual convalescence. The succeeding ones, till the 25th, declared uninterrupted progress in well-doing; and that day, and the following day, gave to a loyal and delighted people, assurances of the *absolute cessation of all complaint.*

EVERY material circumstance in her friend's journal, relative to the object in view, the editor has faithfully given. And she flatters herself that the point at which she stops is not injudiciously chosen. It occurred to her, that the subsequent details of illuminations, rejoicings, and public audiences, would find little interest in minds that had been occupied in the contemplation of an awful national visitation, and a merciful deliverance from it.

She cannot believe that minds so circumstanced can be disposed to relish accounts of the ordinary modes of joy and gratulation.—But, conceiving as she does, that every good and loyal subject will derive solid gratification from every additional proof of the existence of the best of dispositions where the whole realm is interested in finding them, she is irresistibly impelled to transcribe another page, in which she finds an affecting one commemorated.

April the 23d. The Prince of Wales attended the public thanksgiving which His Majesty's exemplary piety induced him to offer at St. Paul's for the mercy vouchsafed. As soon as the service was finished, His Royal Highness hastened to Carlton-House, where he changed his dress for the uniform of his regiment; and, taking the command of it, proceeded to meet his royal father in his return;—thus becoming, himself, his guard and conductor to the Queen's House. Alighting there, His Royal Highness presented himself at the door, in a manner that required to be

seen, in order to be duly felt, and fully understood. It was to the *revered Monarch*—to the *beloved Parent*—that His Royal Highness offered assistance. The tender attachment of the most affectionate of sons—the zealous devotion of the first of subjects—were manifested with an energy and a grace that no language can adequately describe.

THE END.

In p. 46, l. 17, for perspicuity read perspicacity.
62, 18, for respected — respective.
79, 7, for these — those.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE joyful and happy event of His Majesty's restoration to the anxious and ardent prayers of his lately afflicted people, having superseded the motives which prompted the publication of these pages, it became the wish of the Editor to withdraw them from the press; but the progress of the Printer had left it no longer in her power. She has now, therefore, only to beg permission to offer her warmest congratulations to that Public, to which it was before her earnest desire to be the humble instrument of administering consolation. And she earnestly offers up her fervent supplications to Heaven for the long continuance to these realms of that blessing, of which it was her original intention to inspire the hope or to encourage the expectation.

June, 1804.

Richard Taylor, Printer,
Black-Horse-Court, Fleet-street.